

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 (Cancelled)

3. **(Currently amended)** ~~The fastener according to claim 1,~~ A fastener for continually exerting a tightening torque to a fastening member fixedly screwed onto a mounting base, comprising a torsion coil spring formed in a winding shape so as to be inserted in an axial direction onto the fastening member and having a fixing end to be fixed onto the mounting base so that tightening torque can be accumulated in said torsion coil spring, and a detachable stopper configured to be fitted to said torsion coil spring, with said torsion coil spring having accumulated tightening torque, in such a manner that said detachable stopper can be removed from said torsion coil spring in order to release the accumulated tightening torque of said torsion coil spring, wherein said detachable stopper is constituted by a cylindrical member, and wherein said torsion coil spring is configured so as to be formed in a cylindrical shape to be retained without change in diameter by said stopper and so as to radially expand gradually larger in diameter toward said fixing end of said torsion coil spring into a cylindrical cone shape upon being released from said stopper.

4. **(Previously presented)** A fastener for continually exerting a tightening torque to a fastening member fixedly screwed onto a mounting base, comprising a torsion coil spring formed in a winding shape so as to be inserted in an axial direction onto the fastening member and having a fixing end to be fixed onto the mounting base so that tightening torque can be accumulated in said torsion coil spring, and a detachable stopper configured to be fitted to said torsion coil spring, with said torsion coil spring having accumulated tightening torque, in such a manner that said detachable stopper can be removed from said torsion coil spring in order to release the accumulated tightening torque of said torsion coil spring, wherein said stopper is

formed in a ring shape, and wherein said stopper formed in a ring shape has a flange projecting outward from its end face.

Claims 5-8 (Cancelled)

9. **(Previously presented)** A fastener for continually exerting a tightening torque to a fastening member fixedly screwed onto a mounting base, comprising a torsion coil spring formed in a winding shape so as to be inserted in an axial direction onto the fastening member and having a fixing end to be fixed onto the mounting base so that tightening torque can be accumulated in said torsion coil spring, and a detachable stopper configured to be fitted to said torsion coil spring, with said torsion coil spring having accumulated tightening torque, in such a manner that said detachable stopper can be removed from said torsion coil spring in order to release the accumulated tightening torque of said torsion coil spring, wherein said torsion coil spring is configured so as to be formed in a cylindrical shape to be retained without change in diameter by said stopper and so as to radially expand gradually larger in diameter toward said fixing end of said torsion coil spring into a cylindrical cone shape upon being released from said stopper, and wherein said stopper is formed in a ring shape and has a flange projecting outward from its end face.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 3, further comprising a driving member configured to be inserted into said stopper so as to drive said torsion coil spring out of said stopper to engage on the fastening member.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 10, wherein said stopper and said driving member are cylindrical.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The fastener according to claim 11, wherein said driving member has a radially outwardly extending flange at an end thereof to engage an end of said stopper when being inserted therein so as to prevent further insertion.

Claims 13-16 **(Cancelled)**

17. **(Previously presented)** A fastener for continually exerting a tightening torque to a fastening member fixedly screwed onto a mounting base, comprising a torsion coil spring formed in a winding shape so as to be inserted in an axial direction onto the fastening member and having a fixing end to be fixed onto the mounting base so that tightening torque can be accumulated in said torsion coil spring, and a detachable stopper configured to be fitted to said torsion coil spring, with said torsion coil spring having accumulated tightening torque, in such a manner that said detachable stopper can be removed from said torsion coil spring in order to release the accumulated tightening torque of said torsion coil spring, wherein said torsion coil spring is configured so as to be formed in a cylindrical shape to be retained without change in diameter by said stopper and so as to radially expand gradually larger in diameter toward said fixing end of said torsion coil spring into a cylindrical cone shape upon being released from said stopper, wherein said stopper is cylindrical and has an insert groove formed in a first end thereof, and wherein said torsion coil spring has a fixing end that extends through said insert groove when said torsion coil spring is inserted in said stopper so that said fixing end can be engaged with a fixing part of the mounting base.

18. **(Previously presented)** The fastener according to claim 17, wherein said stopper has a radially outwardly extending flange at a second end thereof.

19. **(Previously presented)** A fastener for continually exerting a tightening torque to a fastening member fixedly screwed onto a mounting base, comprising a torsion coil spring formed

in a winding shape so as to be inserted in an axial direction onto the fastening member and having a fixing end to be fixed onto the mounting base so that tightening torque can be accumulated in said torsion coil spring, and a detachable stopper configured to be fitted to said torsion coil spring, with said torsion coil spring having accumulated tightening torque, in such a manner that said detachable stopper can be removed from said torsion coil spring in order to release the accumulated tightening torque of said torsion coil spring, wherein said stopper is cylindrical and has an insert groove formed in a first end thereof, and wherein said torsion coil spring has a fixing end that extends through said insert groove when said torsion coil spring is inserted in said stopper so that said fixing end can be engaged with a fixing part of the mounting base.

20. **(Previously presented)** The fastener according to claim 19, wherein said stopper has a radially outwardly extending flange at a second end thereof.

Claims 21-23 **(Cancelled)**